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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 801
By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend William (Bill) Lucy for his meritorious service as an international labor and civil rights leader.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those individuals who have given wholeheartedly of themselves in the service of their fellow human beings, dedicating their lives and careers to the betterment of humanity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. William (Bill) Lucy, a native of Memphis, is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and commitment in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, one of the most revered labor leaders in the world, Mr. Bill Lucy has admirably worked for nearly three decades in international and African American labor affairs, conscientiously serving in key leadership positions in several prominent labor organizations; and

WHEREAS, a sterling scholar, Mr. Lucy attended the University of California at Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, a civil engineer by trade, he served with distinction as Assistant Materials and Research Engineer for Contra Costa County, California; and

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WHEREAS, in 1965, Bill Lucy began his distinguished career in labor management when he was elected President of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 1675, which represented the Contra Costa Employees; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lucy joined the international staff of the AFSCME in 1966 as the Associate Director of the Legislation and Community Affairs Departments; he later served as Executive Assistant to AFSCME's late President, Jerry Wurf; and

WHEREAS, Bill was elected to the influential position of International Secretary-Treasurer, the second highest ranking officer of the 1.3 million-member AFSCME, in May of 1972, and through his extraordinary work ethic and dedication, has been re-elected every four years, most recently in 2000; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his remarkable work with AFSCME, he also serves as a vital leader with AFL-CIO; he was named a member of the AFL-CIO Executive Council in October of 1995, and serves as Vice President of AFL-CIO's Maritime Trades Department and Department of Professional Employees; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished labor statesman, Mr. Lucy earned the distinction of being the first African American elected President of Public Services International, the world's largest union federation in November of 1964; and

WHEREAS, Bill Lucy is also the Founder and President of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU); in 1972, he established CBTU, an organization of dedicated union leaders and members, to meet the unique needs of African Americans and minority group workers; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Lucy's leadership, CBTU has earned global and local respect as a catalyst for progressive and enduring change; in the last decade, CBTU has expanded from twenty-seven chapters to more than fifty chapters; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished leader, he has served with great acumen and diligence as a Board Member of numerous organizations, including the NAACP, TransAfrica, Black

Leadership Forum, the Africa America Institute, Americans for Democratic Action, The Center for Policy Alternatives, and the Council of Institutional Investors; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, Bill served alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the historic Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike; after the tragic assassination of Dr. King, he helped maintain the coalition of labor, civil rights, and community organizations that was pivotal to the workers' victory, which became a standard for labor and civil rights issues throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, an advocate of human rights concerns worldwide, Mr. Lucy was one of the founders of the Free South Africa Movement, which led to the decisive antiapartheid campaign in the U.S. in the mid-1980s; he later led the AFL-CIO delegation that monitored the first democratic elections ever held in South Africa; and

WHEREAS, a well respected international leader, Mr. Lucy has received many honors for his years of strong advocacy on behalf of labor workers and minority groups; last year, *Ebony Magazine* once again listed him as one of "The 100 most Influential Black Americans"; and

WHEREAS, for close to thirty years, he has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the international community; his life of service and activism stands as a testament to the difference one person can make; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud this august gentleman for his dedication to the rights of labor workers and minority groups worldwide; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Mr. William (Bill) Lucy for his meritorious service to the international community, commend his extraordinary achievements in labor practices and civil

rights concerns, and express our appreciation for his past and future endeavors in civil rights and labor matters throughout the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, We also extend to Mr. Lucy our best wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.